**Information about your Private Referral**

Please find some common FAQs below.

***Does this mean that my insurance company will now pay for the private consultation?***

This entirely depends on your insurance company and the insurance policy which you have with them. They may ask us to complete a claim form (there is a charge for this as it is not an NHS service – please see our website for up-to-date prices). The more information you can provide about your symptoms and condition, the more likely we are to be able to complete the claim form fully.

***Can I change my private referral to an NHS one?***

Not necessarily as there are very clear guidelines for referrals to NHS services. If we do a referral which are outside of these guidelines, there is a good chance that this would be rejected.

***Can I change my NHS referral to a private one?***

Yes, please let our secretary know if you would like us to do this.

***My private specialist has prescribed some medicines. Can I get these on the NHS?***

It depends on the medication and the situation. The prescribing doctor takes on the responsibility for the prescription even if it has been recommended by a specialist. Here are some examples where we may not be able to prescribe the medication for you:-

* The GP has not had adequate communication from the private doctor to explain the reasons why you need the medicine.
* The GP does not believe the medicine is appropriate or necessary for you.
* The medicine is not licensed or is being used outside of its licensed use in the UK.
* The GP does not feel they have the specialist expertise to monitor the medicine and to ensure it is safe and working for you.
* The use of the medicine is not in line with national or local prescribing guidelines.
* Your GP believes that a different medicine which is very similar and commonly prescribed on the NHS will be just as effective or appropriate for you to take instead.
* You are seen by a private doctor/specialist without referral from your NHS GP.

***My private specialist has recommended some tests. Can I get these on the NHS?***

It depends on the test and the circumstances. The requesting/referring doctor takes responsibility for these tests even if it has been recommended by a specialist.

In general if the test is one that we would not normally arrange in general practice for the clinical condition in line with local and national guidelines, then we are unlikely to be able to arrange this on the NHS in general practice and would recommend that this is arranged by the private specialist.